

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 349
By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Laquisha Payne for
winning the national Prudential Spirit of
Community Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Laquisha Payne is one such remarkable public servant, winner of the prestigious Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, the Prudential award was launched last fall by the Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals; this exemplary nationwide program recognizes outstanding self-initiated community service by America's youth; and

WHEREAS, the program recognizes a total of only 104 honorees - two from each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, the applicants were judged at the state level on such important criteria as personal initiative, creativity, degree of difficulty, impact and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, Laquisha Payne of Kingsbury High School in Memphis, Tennessee, was specially recognized for visiting a local nursing home, where she helped the residents play bingo, celebrate birthdays and express themselves; and

WHEREAS, despite her own developmental disability and visual impairment, Laquisha says she learned that there are people in this world who need her to help them; and

WHEREAS, Laquisha, who believes it is crucial that people help each other in any way they can, will attend the national event in Washington, DC, May 4-7; and

WHEREAS, the selection committee will name 10 students as the nation's top Prudential Spirit of Community youth volunteers for 1996 and award each honoree a gold medallion, \$5,000 and a commemorative trophy for his or her school; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of proud parent, Debra Peters, Laquisha Payne has learned the value of friendship and community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Laquisha Payne for winning the Prudential Spirit of Community Award and salute her commitment to community support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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